

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1           **Claim 1 (original):** A pressure sensor comprising  
2           pressure sensing means for detecting a deformation due to  
3           an external force and a sensor accommodation body which is  
4           made from a thermoplastic elastomer and which covers an  
5           outside of the pressure sensing means, wherein at least one  
6           end portion of the sensor accommodation body is sealed off  
7           through a thermal treatment.

1           **Claim 2 (original):** A pressure sensor as set forth in  
2           Claim 1, wherein the pressure sensing means comprises a  
3           plurality of electrodes which an output signal generated  
4           due to deformation is made to leave and a resistor provided  
5           portion where a resistor for detecting a disconnection or  
6           short-circuit of the electrode is provided, and wherein the  
7           resistor provided portion is fixedly sealed off through a  
8           thermal treatment at the one end portion of the sensor  
9           accommodation body.

1           **Claim 3 (original):** A pressure sensor as set forth in  
2           Claim 2, wherein the resistor provided portion includes at  
3           least one of a recessed portion, a raised portion and a

4 wedge-shaped portion which function to enhance the fixing  
5 strength of the resistor provided portion when sealing off  
6 the end portion of the sensor accommodation body.

1 **Claim 4 (original):** A pressure sensor as set forth in  
2 Claim 2, wherein the resistor provided portion comprises an  
3 insertion hole into which a pin is inserted for enhancing  
4 the fixing strength to the sensor accommodation body.

1 **Claim 5 (currently amended):** A pressure sensor as set  
2 forth in ~~any of Claims 1 to 4~~claim 1, wherein at least one  
3 end portion of the pressure sensing means is covered by a  
4 cap made from a thermoplastic elastomer, and wherein the  
5 cap seals off the end portion of the sensor accommodation  
6 body.

1 **Claim 6 (currently amended):** A pressure sensor as set  
2 forth in ~~any of Claims 1 to 5~~claim 1, wherein the sensor  
3 accommodation body is support means for the pressure  
4 sensing means which is secured to a side where the sensor  
5 is mounted and fixed, wherein the support means comprises  
6 a hollow portion which enhances the deformation of the  
7 pressure sensing means when an external force is applied,  
8 and wherein the hollow portion is sealed off through a  
9 thermal treatment at at least one end portion of the  
10 support means.

1           **Claim 7 (currently amended):** A pressure sensor as set  
2       forth in ~~any of Claims 1 to 5~~claim 1, wherein the sensor  
3       accommodation body comprises support means which is  
4       covering means for covering the pressure sensing means,  
5       which incorporates therein the pressure sensing means  
6       covered by the covering means and which is secured to a  
7       side where the sensor is mounted and fixed, wherein the  
8       support means comprises a hollow portion which enhances the  
9       deformation of the pressure sensing means when an external  
10      force is applied, and wherein the hollow portion is sealed  
11      off through a thermal treatment at at least one end portion  
12      of the support means.

1           **Claim 8 (original):** A pressure sensor as set forth in  
2       Claim 7, wherein the whole of at least one end portion of  
3       the support means is covered by a cap made from a  
4       thermoplastic elastomer, and wherein the cap seals off the  
5       end portion when subjected to a thermal treatment.

1           **Claim 9 (currently amended):** A pressure sensor as set  
2       forth in ~~any of Claims 1 to 8~~claim 1, wherein the pressure  
3       sensing means is formed using a composite piezoelectric  
4       material resulting from a mixture of chlorinated  
5       polyethylene and piezoelectric ceramic powder.

1           **Claim 10 (original):** A pressure sensor comprising  
2           pressure sensing means for detecting a deformation due to  
3           an external force and a sensor accommodation body which  
4           covers an outside of the pressure sensing means, wherein a  
5           lubricant is loaded between the pressure sensing means and  
6           the sensor accommodation body.

1           **Claim 11 (original):** A pressure sensor as set forth  
2           in Claim 10, wherein at least one end portion of the sensor  
3           accommodation body is sealed off through a thermal  
4           treatment.

1           **Claim 12 (currently amended):** An object detecting  
2           system comprising the pressure sensor set forth in ~~any of~~  
3           ~~claims 1 to 11~~claim 1 and determination means for  
4           determining on the contact of an object based on an output  
5           signal of the pressure sensor.

1           **Claim 13 (original):** An object detecting system as  
2           set forth in Claim 12, wherein the determination means is  
3           fixedly sealed off through a thermal treatment at one end  
4           portion of support means.

1           **Claim 14 (currently amended):** An opening and closing  
2           system comprising the object detecting system set forth in  
3           Claim 12 ~~or 13~~, driving means for driving an opening and

4 closing portion and control means for controlling the  
5 driving means in such a manner as to stop a closing  
6 operation of the opening and closing portion or to operate  
7 the opening and closing portion to be opened when  
8 determination means determines on the contact of an object  
9 with a pressure sensor when the opening and closing portion  
10 is operated to be closed.

1 **Claim 15 (original):** A pressure sensor fabricating  
2 method comprising pressure sensing means for detecting a  
3 deformation due to an external force and a sensor  
4 accommodation body which covers an outside of the pressure  
5 sensing means, the pressure sensor fabricating method  
6 including the steps of making a lubricant adhere to at  
7 least either a surface of the pressure sensing means or an  
8 internal surface of the sensor accommodation body and  
9 inserting the pressure sensing means into the interior  
10 surface of the sensor accommodation body.

1 **Claim 16 (original):** A pressure sensor fabricating  
2 method as set forth in Claim 15, wherein at least one end  
3 portion of the sensor accommodation body is sealed off  
4 through a thermal treatment after the insertion of the  
5 pressure sensing means into the sensor accommodation body.

1 **Claim 17 (currently amended):** A pressure sensor

2        fabricating method as set forth in Claim 15 ~~or 16~~, wherein  
3        either zinc stearate or calcium carbonate is used as the  
4        lubricant.